

using each year hundreds of thousands of tons of ore, brought all the way from Africa to Baltimore by sea, and then inland four hundred and fifty miles by rail; while in many counties in North Carolina, not the distance of the length of the State away from these furnaces, inexhaustible quantities of better ores were to be found. When Prof. Kerr made known to them this fact and showed them samples of the ores and their analysis, they stood amazed. Just think of it for a moment. The iron men of Pittsburgh knowing more about the ores of Africa than of North Carolina! This is no reflection on their intelligence, but on our want of enterprise as a State. There is no lack of capital in the money centre seeking safe and profitable investments; for we have seen the rate of interest decrease from year to year until four per cent. bonds of the United States command a high premium, and the three per cent. British consols sold at par. Make known to capitalists our great resources, the advantages they offer for safe investments, and the work of their development is well advanced. This must be done by the State.

We need more people. If we would realize our want of population, let us compare our State with that of Massachusetts. These States were settled at no great distance of time from each other. At the census of 1870, Massachusetts, the only natural productions of which are ice and granite, had a population of one hundred and eighty-seven to the square mile. North Carolina, which, as shown by the same census, produced every crop then grown in the United States, had only twenty-one to the square mile. North Carolina, compared with her capacity to sustain population, may almost be regarded as uninhabited.

We need immigration on many accounts. The embarrassments created by the war have not been wholly cleared away from the landed interests; the sale of surplus lands would liquidate liabilities, and render the operations of the proprietor with the residue far more effective for his own and the general interests. Proprietors who are unembarrassed have a great excess of land. Immigration would enable them to dispose of this excess, so that lands now unimproved would at once become productive. At the same time, the capital they liberated could be turned to manufacturing pursuits. We have a large extent of land which has undergone partial exhaustion and now lies waste. For this state of things, immigration presents the speediest remedy. The methods of culture in the old world are much more thorough and pains-taking than with us. These exhausted lands would,